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ALMC Fort Lee, Virginia

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21 – 23 June 2005**

# **Military SpacePlane: Ground Operations Model**



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# Introduction

- **MSP Ground Operations**
- **Problem Statement**
- **Modeling Considerations**
- **Problem Solving Approach**
- **Venture Evaluation Review Technique**
- **System Data & Analysis**
- **Findings & Recommendations**
- **Summary & POC Information**





# Air Vehicles Directorate



## Vision



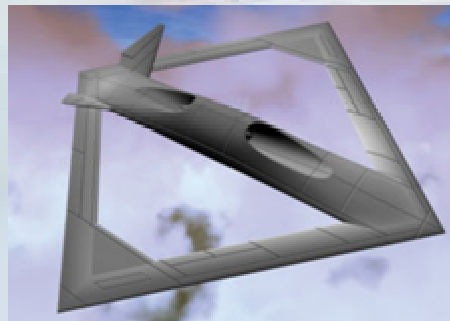
**Strike UAVs**



**Technology Insertion**



**Long Range Strike**



**Persistent ISR**

NEAR FAR  
Provide the Best Air Vehicle  
Technologies for  
Aerospace Dominance  
MID



**Space Operations Vehicle**



**Directed Energy Integration**



**Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio**



**Advanced Mobility**



**ALMC Fort Lee, Virginia**

**Unclassified**





# Air Force Research Laboratory



## Directorate Mission

- **Plans, formulates, and directs science & technology research for military air vehicles exploration and advanced technology development**
- **Orchestrates/executes technology developments in aeronautical sciences, control sciences, and aerospace structures**
- **Integrates systems level air vehicle technologies with other AFRL directorates. Provides technical support for aerospace systems integration**
- **Orchestrates technology development with other DOD and national laboratories, industries, universities, NASA, FAA, NATO, and other foreign research organizations**

# **MSP**

## **Military Space Plane**

**MSP is a reusable space taxi for carrying payloads into and from space. A space craft that embodies “aircraft-like” characteristics of current air vehicle platforms**



### **Used for**

- **Space Control**
- **Force Enhancement**
- **Space Support**
- **Force Applications**



- **Reusable space delivery and mission operation system**
- **Timely delivery of mission assets to and from space**
- **Multi-mission capable with interchangeable payloads**
- **Short-cycle, rapid mission turn around time**



# MSP Modules

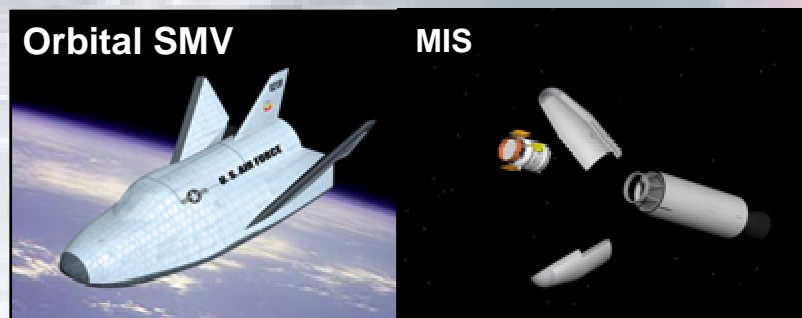


## Three Components

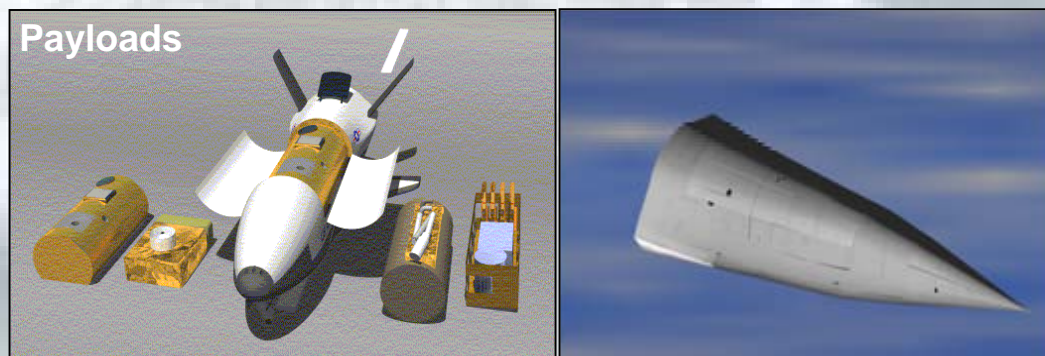
1. Space Operations Vehicle (SOV)  
Reusable **Booster**



2. Space Maneuver Vehicle (SMV) and  
Various **Upper Stages**



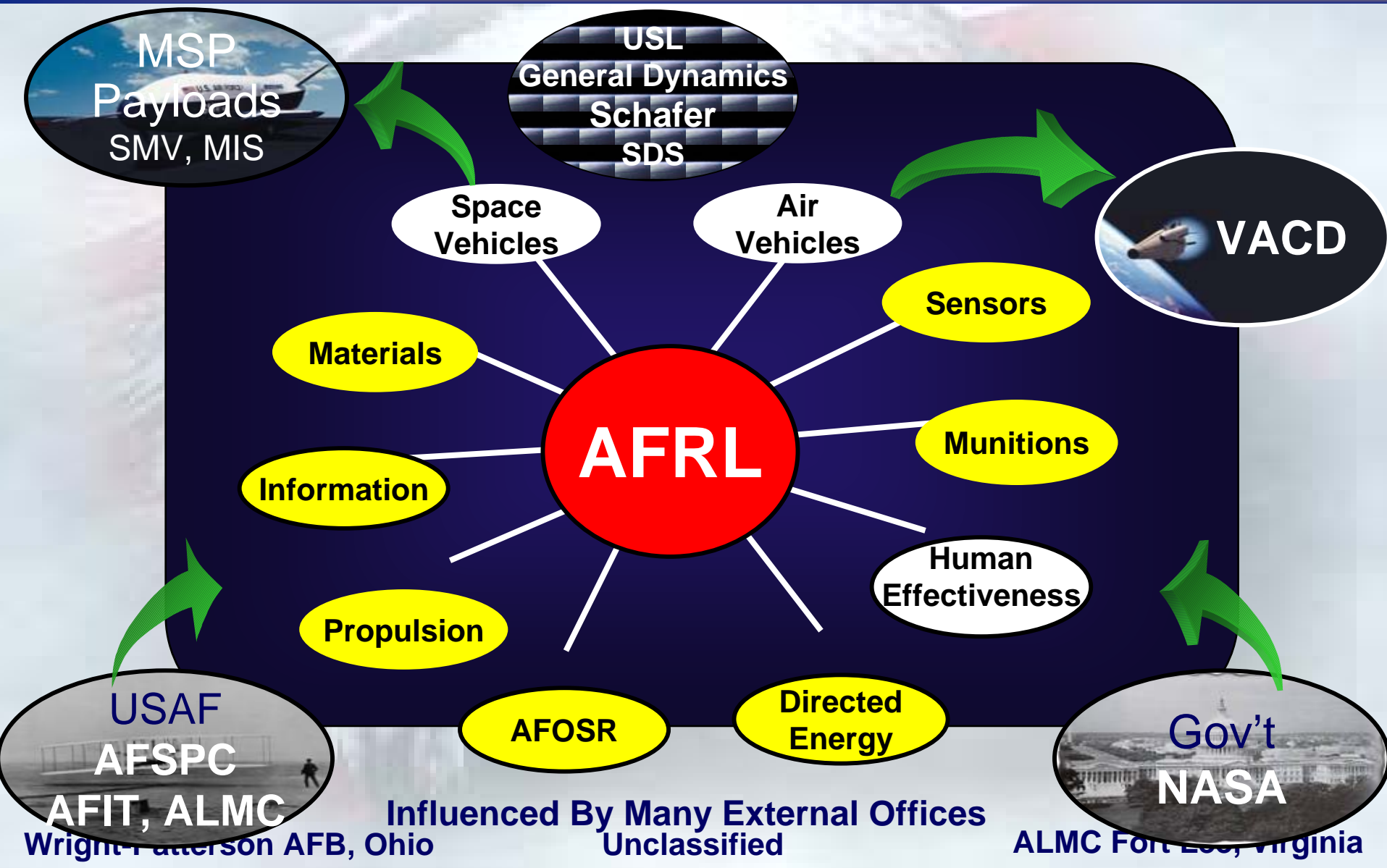
3. Various Operational  
and Space  
Mission **Payloads**







# Coordinating Agencies/Industries



# Operationally Response Spacelift Requirements

**Operationally Response Spacelift** systems must be available and dependable... They must also be reliable, supportable, maintainable and **robust enough to generate required mission rates... capable of meeting required turnaround-times**

**Mission Need Statement for Operationally Responsive Spacelift (20 Dec 01)**

**Need mid/far-term SS capabilities including robust and responsive space lift, rapid satellite configuration/on-orbit initialization; provide quick-turn, on-demand, assured space access for time-sensitive military operations** (re-position or boost on-orbit assets)

**AF Space Command Strategic Master Plan Space Support Roadmap (1 Oct 03)**

**During periods of war** [provide] ... **sortie rate** at least **.33** sorties per day with an objective of **.50** sorties per day; **surge**; **.50** sorties per day with an objective of **1.0** sorties per day. **During periods of war or exercise** [provide] ... **turn times** of **18** hours with an objective of **12** hours; **surge** of **12** hours with objective of **8** hours.

**Systems Requirements Document for Military SpacePlane System (12 Feb 01)**



# Problem Statement



## Background

**A key element in space sortie generation continues to be the ability to reduce ground operations turnaround times**

## Problem Statement

**While there is data for real systems, there is little basic research on ground operations for experimental military spacelift vehicles. Turnaround information shortfall applies to **processes** based on engineering designs **and** on estimated **data** useful to a spacelift operation center (SOC) responsible for command and control of spacelift platforms**

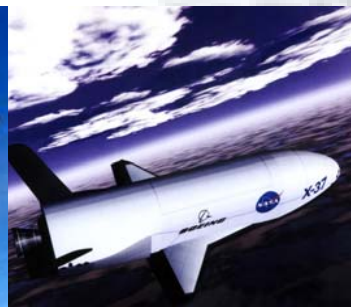




# Vehicle Comparisons



System →



**MSP**

System:	Space Shuttle	SpaceShipOne	X-37 Vehicle	B-2 Bomber	MSP
Mission:	Operational	Experimental	Experimental	Operational	TBD
Crew:	Manned	Manned	Unmanned	Manned	Unmanned
Size & weight (Payload):	Large	Small	Small	Large	Variable
Sortie Rate:	180+ days	2 < weeks	N/A	8 < hours	Goal: 8 < hrs





# Ground Operations (Mission Ops)



**Large and Manpower Intensive**



**Notional SAVMOS Facility & Crew Size**



- Minimized crew size (operational manning)
- Reduced facility size (footprint)
- Reduced cost



# Major Ground Operation Activities



## Mission Return Phase 1

- Safe-making & moving
- Health assessment
- Post-mission Inspecting
- Payload removal
- 3 phase maintenance
- Flight Storage

## Sortie Generation Phase 2

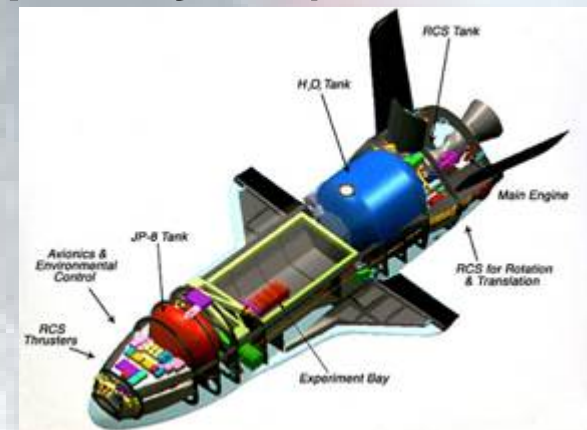
- Preflight ops checks
- Payload instantiation
- Connections & assembly
- Transport to pad
- Fueling operations
- Pre-launch preparation



# Modeling Considerations



- Which operations to model (sequence major event)
- Size and scope (Fidelity) of model
- Sources of modeling information (B-2, Cape, Dryden)
- Comparative space-air data
- Data types and acquisition
- Criteria for computer model selection
- Model construction of ground operations
- Experiments with Ground Ops simulation
- Development of tools and algorithms





# Levels and Scope of Modeling



- **Spaceport Level**
  - Entire space facility (all operations)
  - Every aspect of resources (A to Z)
  - Continuous flow (multi-ship operations)
- **Operations Level**
  - Mission operations vs. ground operations
  - Single cyclic flow of MSP(s)
  - Resources dedicated to sortie generation
- **Engineering Level**
  - Single ship high resolution activities
  - Craftsman level of operations
  - Detailed estimates (e.g., tile replacement)

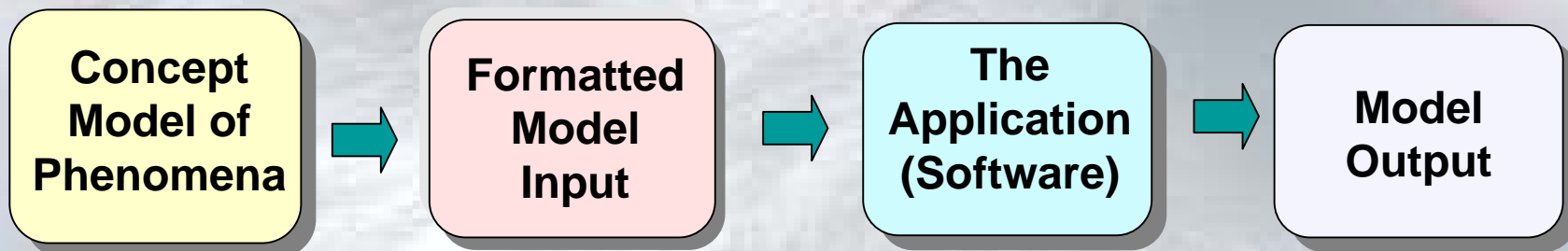




# Problem Solving Approach



- Perform phenomena research
- Determine processes and data sources
- Build a conceptual spacelift turnaround model
- Research COTS/GOTS software



- Select software and data for simulation
- Experiment with the ground ops simulation
- Analyze results and seek validation
- Refine the model and further develop tools





# VERT

## Venture Evaluation & Review Technique



### One Ground Operations Modeling Approach

Dr. George Huntley

Army Logistics Management College



# ALMC

## Army Logistics Management College



- Trains US civilians, military, and US allies
- Major teaching subjects and consulting areas:
  - Systems Engineering (ORSA/MAC-I, Cont. Education, STS)
  - Logistics Courses (CLC3....)
  - Defense Acquisition Training (Mil. Acquisition Mgt)
  - Military Operations Research/Systems Analysis
  - Decision Risk Analysis for Engineers
- Resident, Onsite, Web and DL Instruction
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2004
- Trained over quarter-million DoD students

**ALMC at Fort Lee, Virginia ([www.almc.army.mil](http://www.almc.army.mil))**





# VERT



**VERT is a network computer simulation “Engine”**

- Builds greatly upon PERT/CPM but is stochastic
- Developed by Gerald L. Moeller at US Army’s Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois & others since 1970s
- Used for **describing** & analyzing **new & risky** projects
- Uses time, cost, performance, & probabilities to evaluate alternatives
- **Free** for US Govt use & **easy** to Learn
- **Proponent:** US Army Log. Mgt. College, Ft Lee, VA



# General VERT Use



Great for analyzing small to moderately complex projects

- **Historically** used to
  - Develop new weapons systems
  - Generate independent cost estimates
  - Effects of chemical demilitarization
  - Estimate logistics problems of simultaneously fighting several limited world conflicts
  - Plan reactivation of “Mothballed” facilities
  - Other efforts (reliability, design, safety)



# VERT Strengths & Limitations



- **Strengths**

- Graphical formulation converts to arcs and nodes with data
- Easy to learn, formulate model, and instantiate
- Provides quick turn simulation runs
- Automatically provides useful statistical output
- Price is A-OK, ALMC is sponsor

- **Limitations**

- Can be unwieldy with gigantic projects
- NO “looping back” to previous part of network
- PC Version 3.7 limited to 350 arcs/200 nodes/1000 iterations
- Only 20 internal/10 terminal node, 20 slack histograms
- PC Version needs VV&A on queue and time phasing
- Minimal “user friendly” features (DOS like)







# VERT 101



**Arcs are Activities**



From  
Node

**Tying your shoe**

Prob of success

To  
Node

**Time(T)/Cost(C) /Performance(P) Estimates**

**Arcs not Orcs**

**Nodes are conditional branch points or decision logic points**

**Start**

**Terminate**

**And**

**Or**

**Compare  
T/C/P**

**Waiting  
Queue**

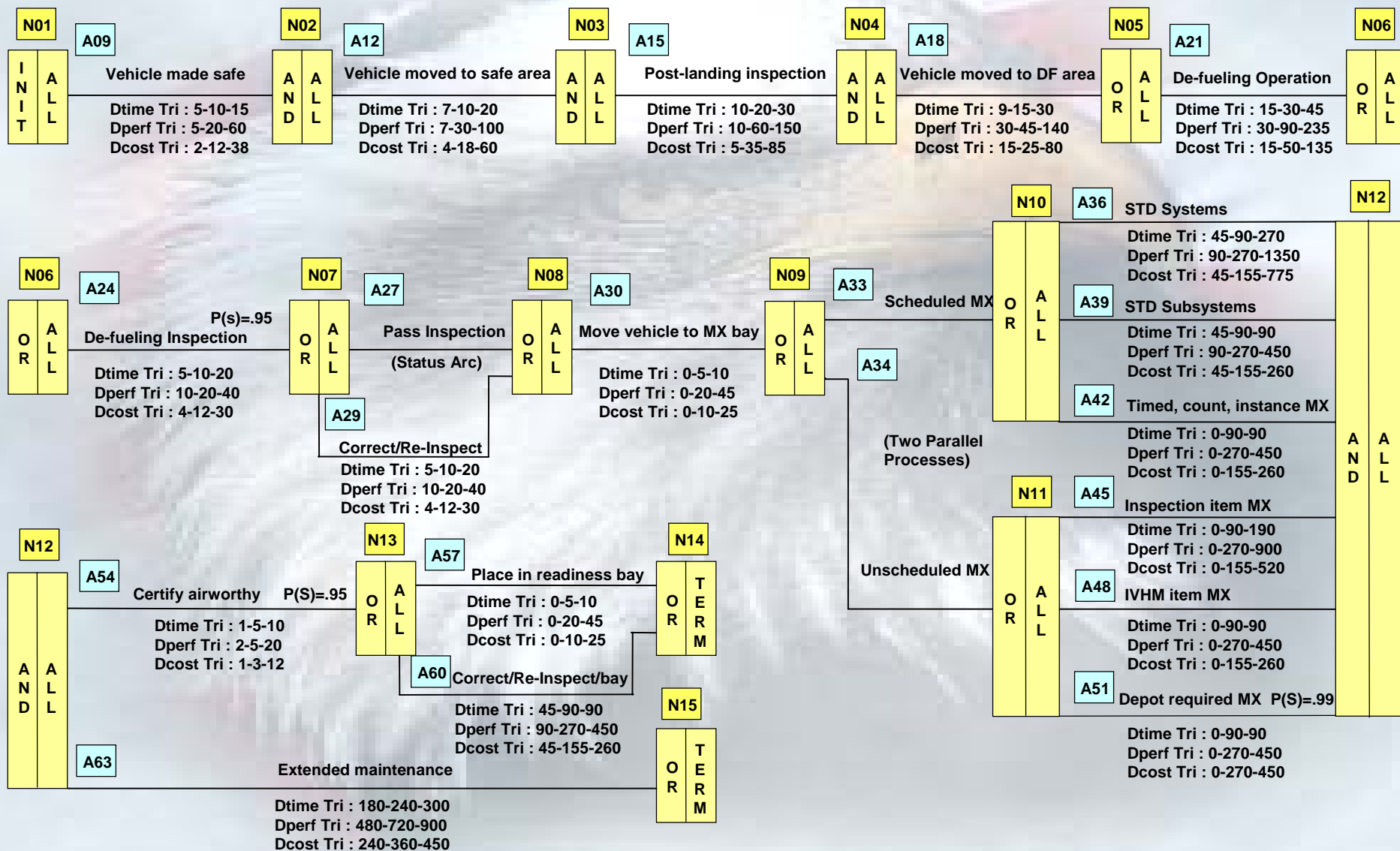
**Some Example VERT Nodes**

Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

Unclassified

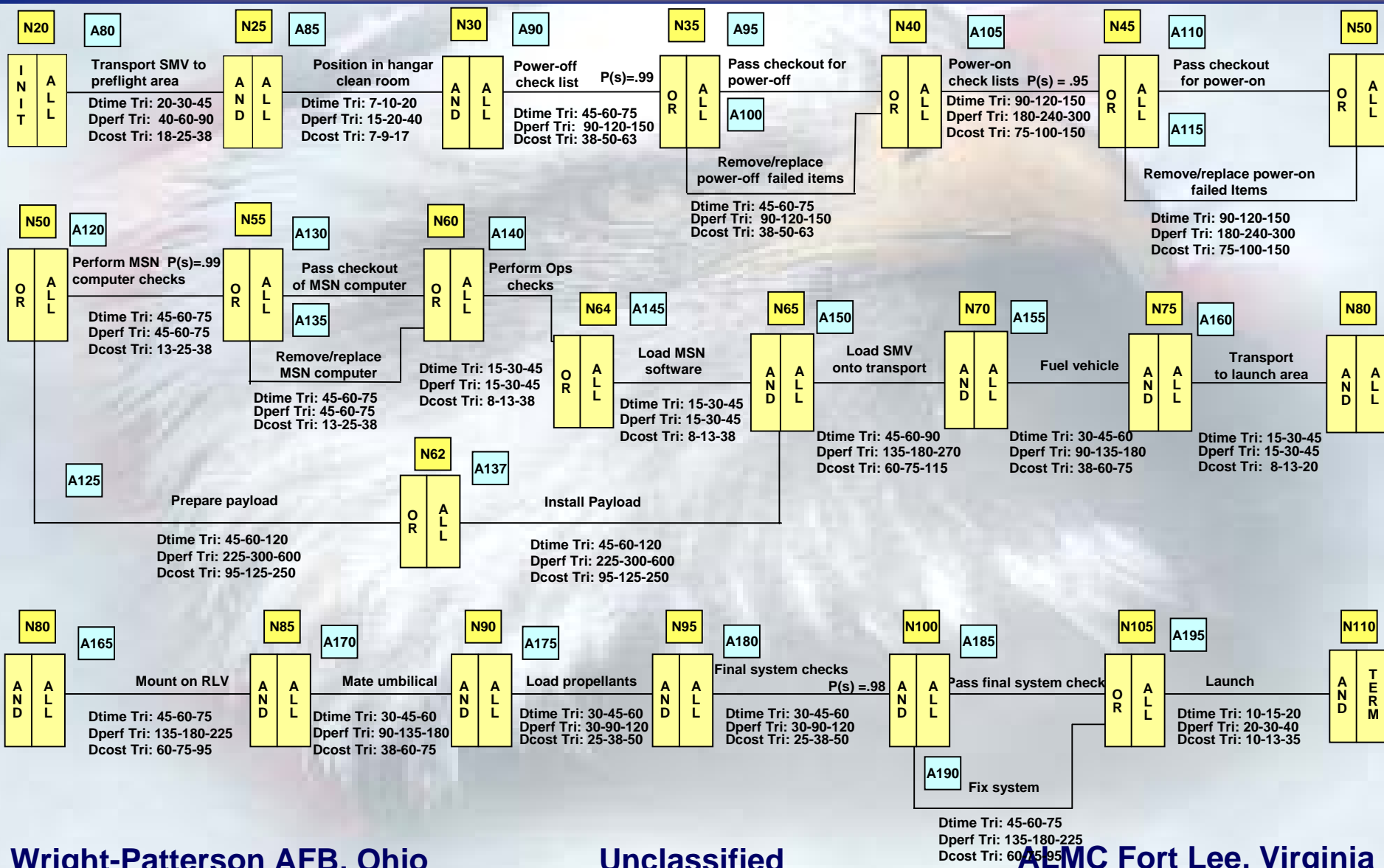
ALMC Fort Lee, Virginia

# Post-Landing





# Pre-Launch





# Network Results



Post-Return	Arc/Nodes	Key Probabilities (Notional)	Hour	%
Sch/Unsch MX	21 Activities	.95 De-fuel ops	4.45 *	98
MX Delay	15 Decision Points	.99 No depot MX .95 Cert. inspection	7.86 *	02

Pre-Launch	Arc/Nodes	Key Probabilities (Notional)	Hour	%
Preparation, test, & payload	25 Activities 21 Decision Points	.95 Power off check .95 Power on check .99 Computer check .99 Final System check	12.2 *	100

Post-Return thru Pre-Launch	Arc/Nodes	Key Probabilities (Notional)	Hour	%
All activities * Results are from Notional Inputs	47 Activities 34 Decision Points	Same probabilities as above	16.6 *	100



# Findings & Recommendations



- **Findings**
  - Large amount of time devoted to moving, racking, and stacking
  - Small Prob of failure results in dramatic decreases in time & cost
  - Payload preparation has to be a parallel activity (racks)
  - Goal is to avoid depot maintenance delays (spares)
  - Estimates employed in this draft are highly optimistic
  - Model assumed unlimited use of working spaceport resources
- **Recommendations**
  - Continue work on validation of changing processes (TPS, IVHM)
  - Obtain better data on maintenance tests and durations
  - Move to a more sophisticated computer model when spaceport and vehicle operational data becomes available



# Points-Of-Contact



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